

has given a little time to it; but gentle, patient giving out the bread of life, in such meekness that even those who oppose themselves may be corrected. God may give them repentance. (See II Tim. 2: 23-26.)

And then this teaching will not only be life giving, but the word will prevent running into any wild onesided undertaking. It will keep the word fresh in mind and enable us to undertake things that otherwise might be thought entirely out of the question. For when we have God's word for it we can not risk too much.

Some one will say, "I don't care to go all that long distance to study the Bible. I can do that at home. I want to go and get through the business as soon as possible." But I am safe in saying that such a one does not study the Bible at home either. If he did he would know that the life is more than meat.

Then there is need of every earnest confession and deep searching trusting prayer for the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him, than an earthly parent is to give good gifts to his children. Luke 11: 13.

Glenford, Ohio.

WILL IT PAY?

W. C. PERRY

Will it pay to attend the National Conference? Yes. Go every time, if you can. Those who do attend realize several advantages. Among them are these:

I. The educational advantage. The best wisdom and experience in the church are brought to the Conference. These are seen and felt in the Conference proceedings. The effect is educational. One mind sharpens another. We become better acquainted with the progress of the church, her old and new methods of work, and her old and young workers. To stay at home and read the Conference reports is not nearly so satisfying and helpful. Reports are always dry and uninteresting and soon go into a corner.

II. The social advantage. Our Conferences furnish a motive and an opportunity for coming together. Already many hearts are rejoicing in the fact that they may meet kindred hearts at our coming Conference. It was so in the past. This is natural and right. In this age of progress and hurry, we can hardly measure the value of this social advantage offered us. We are being hurried farther from each other, rather than closer together. Changes are continually taking place. Distance and long separations often bring misunderstandings about each other and personal criticisms. These destroy confidence in each other and sap our social life. Hence to avoid this, we should use these golden opportunities for the assembling of ourselves together from the four corners of the brotherhood, to preserve and strengthen our social tie.

III. The spiritual advantage. From a spiritual point of view, our Conferences are becoming more helpful each year. It is

gratifying to note the progress. There is not so much attempt to show personal greatness. Leaders are seeing more and more that it is Christ's greatness that should be exalted. The same is seen to be true in the work of other denominations. Greater effort is being made to deepen and quicken the spiritual life of those who attend the National gatherings. Hence there are the praise-meetings, Bible conferences, evangelistic services, etc., fully represented on the general programs.

Our National Conference promises to be unusually rich this year in good things. Shall we go up and possess them? In Indiana we have a very favorable opportunity to do so, because the Conference is brought to our door.

OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

E. B. SHAVER

The National Conference representing the churches from the North, East, West and South assembles to consider the best way to execute the discipline given us by the Lord and his inspired servants. We enact no laws but surely we have come to the stage when we can entertain to a profit, the best plan for the enforcement of God's written law. His Word went forth from Mt. Sinai to govern his church led out by Moses. As long as the Word was executed and the God of Israel worshipped, his people were blessed. The land produced bountifully, the early and latter rains continued, their enemies vanquished. Reverses came by disobedience. In the days of grace we have God's word by his Son for the government of his church (called out from the world.) Now it is whosoever heareth my words I liken to a wise man. He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him; the words that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day, John 12: 48. So we learn that grace and truth (the word) is to guide us in life and judge us after death. How important to hold fast to the primitive doctrine. Saint Peter declared by his mouth they heard the word of the gospel and believed. Jesus prayed, "Neither pray I for these alone but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." When his word is faithfully preached and prayerfully followed the Holy Spirit will be manifested in our conference, in our lives and in the execution of the truth and care of the church.

Let us remember the Word is the infallible guide. We believe that our dear brethren will look well to the standard of right, so that when they assemble together it will be to promote the teaching of Jesus and Christian influence throughout our beloved brotherhood. It occurs to me to suggest that our young preachers should digest well upon the word found in I Timothy 3: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. Had these instructions been adhered to, some of our congregations would have been spared the humiliation given them. Our observation and experiences dictates that conference should insist that the Word be our guide in fact and not in theory only. The

man who is unwilling to be examined by the standard that Saint Paul by inspiration has given is not a proper candidate for the ministry, and the elders who fail to apply the rule are amenable.

Maurertown, Va.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

J. C. CASSEL

Sometimes one is inclined to think that our Annual Conferences are an unnecessary expense; that the money they cost could be more beneficially applied to other causes. Even if this view was correct there would be no possibility of making it practicable as scarcely any would contribute their expense to conference for any other purpose; this is done in rare instances, but it is far from being the rule.

Without conferences there would not be many other purely church causes that needed money; it is the conferences that map out and open up the general work of the church consequently we do not want to stop having conferences, nor stop going to them to save money, but go with a high and holy purpose to advance the cause of Christ, and expound and strengthen the general work of the church.

Delegates should not come simply in their own capacity, but come in the capacity of their churches, instructed on some of the questions of vital importance, such as Home and Foreign Missions, on Educational matters and this year on the question of the Editorship of our periodicals, as the present Editor's term expires on Oct. 1, next.

National Conference is the proper time and place to effect a deeper consecration and thereby arouse a more liberal support of the varied enterprises of the church; generally the preachers are the delegates, whose hearts become deeply moved to contribute to worthy and suffering causes, but for the most part they are poor themselves, and when not authorized to make any pledges for their respective churches, or auxiliary organizations much of the effort of the conference is lost, hence churches and societies, or individuals not able to attend them should give their pastors some privileges to make offerings.

Together with the various enterprises already inaugurated there should by all means be a Church Extension Loan Fund instituted: that is parties having money to loan at reasonable interest to set apart certain amounts as loans toward church buildings so that when Missions are started there is some way of erecting church houses.

We have already wasted money in Chicago and Washington for want of church conveniences and must waste more until we can build. If there were several thousand dollars available as loans the needed houses could be built and a good interest paid instead of paying rents. The money could be held in trust and mortgages or judgments entered in form of the Trustees.

Many practical suggestions could be made for the coming conference but not desiring to occupy more space, I will leave these suffice.